

Steps to improve the condition of Handicapped

†1099. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of handicapped in the country;
- (b) whether Government conduct census for them;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government are going to take any concrete steps to improve the lot of handicapped; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) has conducted a National Sample Survey (47th Round) during July-December, 1991 to collect information on the number of persons with disabilities. Based on the sample survey of NSSO carried out in 1991, approximately 5% of the population is estimated to be suffering from some kind of disability. A question on disabled persons in the household Schedule has been included during Census of India 2001 to ascertain the number of persons with disabilities.

(d) and (e) With a view to expand rehabilitation services for the un-reached disabled population in the country at their door steps by decentralizing rehabilitation services and to create an infrastructure of outreach extension centres in the disabilities sector for serving the persons with disabilities, the Government have taken the following new initiatives specifically for wider coverage and holistic rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

- (i) Over hundred districts have been identified for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services at the doorsteps of persons with disabilities. Services identified include setting up of composite rehabilitation and facilitation centres in collaboration with district authorities and utilizing existing resources.
- (ii) A Scheme for setting up of Composite Regional Centre (CRCs), for persons with disabilities has been approved for the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Himachal Pradesh for providing rehabilitation services for different kinds of

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disabilities and for creating infrastructure for training and manpower development. CRC at Srinagar, Lucknow and Bhopal have become functional.

- (iii) A Scheme for setting up of four Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for persons with spinal injuries and orthopaedic disabilities has been approved as Centrally Sponsored Scheme with Centre and State Share on 90:10 basis for strengthening rehabilitation services in different parts of the country.
- (iv) Besides, a new four tier-scheme namely, National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities has been approved in the State sector with Central funding for creating infrastructure at State/ District Block and Gram Panchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to the disabled.
- (v) A scheme has also been approved for setting up of four Auxiliary Production Centres of Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALMCI) to expand the production capacity and for easy availability of quality aids and appliances.
- (vi) National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities. The Cabinet has approved the proposal for setting up a National Trust, with a corpus fund of Rs. 100 crore. A Bill to this effect has been passed by both the Houses of Parliament. The Rules of the Trust have been notified and laid in Parliament.

2. These steps have been taken in addition to on going schemes/programmes of this Ministry for the welfare of the disabled. There are following six National Institutes/Apex level Institutions set up in each major area of disability which work towards manpower development through long term and short term training programmes, provide service including socio-economic rehabilitation services, develop models of service delivery programmes for rehabilitation, reaching services to the un-reached through out-reach activities and research and development

- (i) National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun.
- (ii) National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped, Calcutta.
- (iii) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Mumbai.

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RAJYA SABHA

- (iv) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad.
- (v) Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.
- (vi) National Institute of Rehabilitation, Training and Research, Orissa.

3. The Rehabilitation Council of India has been reconstituted. The RCI is a statutory body for standardisation and training of rehabilitation professionals recognition of training institutions and registration of professionals. RCI conducts workshop/seminars, training programmes etc. round the years, to promote manpower development in disability rehabilitation.

4. Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALMCI). A Government company under the aegis of this Ministry was set up with the objectives to establish facilities for manufacture of artificial limbs and accessories; to promote, encourage and develop the availability, supply and distribution, at reasonable costs, of artificial limbs and accessories to the needy.

5. To support entrepreneurial activity by the disabled, National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) has been operationalised *with effect from 24.10.97*. The main objective of the Corporation is to provide self-employment and income generating activities to persons with disabilities for their economic rehabilitation. NHFDC extends loans to the persons with disabilities for pursuing general/ professional/technical education for training at graduate and higher levels, besides assisting in the up - gradation of technical entrepreneurial skills.

6. Two Schemes are being implemented for providing support to non-government agencies working for various programmes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

Steel Plants and Rolling Mills in Public Sector

1100. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:.

- (a) the number of steel plants and rolling mills in the public sector;
- (b) the installed capacity of each of these plants;
- (c) whether Government have a proposal to expand any of these plants during Ninth Plan; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken thereon?